

## Research Article

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# Continuity of Ideas and Generations. Historical Facts About the Activities of the Sheremetev Hospital (for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the N.V. Sklifosovsky Research Institute for Emergency Medicine)

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**BACKGROUND** The activities of the Hospice House established by Count N.P. Sheremetev and opened on June 28, 1810, pursued a noble goal to help the suffering, sick and low-income people. However, this intention alone was not enough, and N.P. Sheremetev took care to really ensure the stable work of the Hospice House, providing for both its publicity and reliable state protection.

**MATERIAL AND RESEARCH METHODS** Annual financial statements of the Hospice Board of Trustees for 1862–1866, 1868, 1871, 1872 and 1902 were introduced into scientific circulation for the first time. To prepare the article, archival material was used, including 6 sources, as well as rare publications dated 1859–1927. Research methods: historical-genetic, comparative-historical, problem-chronological and systemic.

**RESULTS** The analysis of the activities of the Sheremetev hospital for 1810–1909 showed that funds were enlarged regularly with increasing amounts from its budget for the treatment of patients, which number was maximum in 1865 (1,798 people), and the lowest in 1814 (127 people).

The personnel of the Sheremetev Hospital took an active part in all major military operations with the participation of Russia (the creation of sanitary detachments to provide assistance to the wounded and sick in combat areas, as well as additional beds located on the territory of the hospital itself).

The Sheremetev Hospital played an important role in higher medical education in Russia, becoming the clinical base of the Moscow Medical and Surgical Academy, and later of the Faculty of Medicine of Moscow University; many of its employees were teachers of these educational institutions. The high level of teaching was also ensured by equipping the hospital with modern medical devices and the active introduction of the latest medical achievements into its work.

On the initiative of chief doctor A.T. Tarasenkov, a department for incoming patients was organized as an independent structure for the first time in Russia. It provided assistance to 175–200 patients per day. The department became the prototype of a comprehensive outpatient network that was subsequently created in our country.

The high prestige of the hospital was brought by the activities of its main doctors and operators, tirelessly working to improve the organizational and medical aspects of the provision of qualified medical care.

The final period of the hospital's activity (1910–1923) until the October Revolution was characterized by the greatest volume of medical work, which subsequently decreased dramatically due to financial difficulties. Since 1919, the hospital functioned as a state institution, and also became the base for the revival of the ambulance service in Moscow.

**CONCLUSION** A review of the activities of the Sheremetev Hospital indicates that the organization of emergency medical care for the population of Moscow, pedagogic work, participation in the treatment of the wounded patients, high surgical activity and versatility were the foundation on which its work was widely developed. It is no coincidence that this particular hospital was reorganized in 1923 into the N.V. Sklifosovsky Institute of Acute Care (since 1944 – N.V. Sklifosovsky Research Institute for Emergency Medicine).

Economic difficulties and political storms could not destroy what was created at the Sheremetev hospital and was the moral and material basis for the further 100 years of successful activity of the institute.

**Keywords:** history of medicine, Hospice, Sheremetev Hospital, Research Institute of Emergency Medicine named after. N.V. Sklifosovsky

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#### INTRODUCTION

The hospice house was opened on June 28, 1810 and included a hospital (later it became known as Sheremetev Hospital), an almshouse and a temple. Nikolai Petrovich Sheremetev, “Count Miloserdov,” as his contemporaries nicknamed him, did not live to see the opening of the Hospice House, which was carried out a year and a half after his death and dedicated to the birthday of its founder. In 1804, in his spiritual will, N.P. Sheremetev instructed all his heirs to assume the duties of trustee of the Hospice House, which was subsequently carried out. In addition, with this will. After his death, Sheremetev gives the choice of the chief caretaker of the Hospice House to the noble society of Moscow. He also makes the management of the House collegial, delegating the right to make decisions not to one boss, but to the entire council. He wants to make the actions of this council transparent by publishing annual reports subject to public comment. Finally, he asks that the employees of the Hospital be considered in the public service and, therefore, subject to rewards and punishments from the government, as well as pensions, which were maintained at the highest level [1]. All this guaranteed the fulfillment of his plans not only through the control of the trustee, but also through the judgment of the public and the reliable patronage of the state.

#### MATERIAL AND RESEARCH METHODS

For the first time, the annual financial reports of the Board of Trustees of the Hospice House for 1862–1866, 1868, 1871, 1872 and 1902 obtained from Internet resources have been introduced into scientific circulation. To prepare the article, archival material was used, including 7 sources, as well as rare publications for 1859–1927. Research methods: historical-genetic, comparative-historical, problem-chronological and systemic.



In a public report for 1902, for the first time, an item of expenses for the maintenance of the department for visitors and the medical fund appears. This amount amounted to 3,049.79 rubles. The attention is drawn to the large number of prescriptions issued for free medicines: the maximum number was observed in 1,902 (they were received by 17,573 people), and the minimum in 1,862 (3,516 people).

Having studied the medical records on the activities of the Sheremetev Hospital, presented by S.E. Berezovsky for the period 1810–1909 [11, p. 144–145], and comparing them to the data of the above-mentioned public reports for identical years [2–10], we decided to conduct a comparative analysis of similar data, which showed that these data are very similar and basically coincide with each other. In the statements of S.E. Berezovsky, in addition, contains information on the number of people admitted to the hospital who died at the end of each year, as well as on mortality. The result of the analysis of this material showed that the number of admitted patients was maximum in 1865 (1798 people), and the smallest number was in 1814 (127 people). Low revenue figures during this period are associated with the long-term renovation of the hospital after the end of the Patriotic War of 1812. The reported mortality rates ranged from 5% in 1814 to 16% in 1828 and 1833. In particular, the high mortality rate in 1830 and 1831 (14%) may be associated, in our opinion, with a change in the structure of admission to the Sheremetev hospital during the cholera epidemic in Russia (as usually happens in such cases, the most severely ill patients are hospitalized).

Analyzing the activities of the department for incoming patients according to the statements of S.E. Berezovsky for the years 1810–1909, one can note the annual increase in requests to this department, where patients were given not only medical advice, but also the necessary medical care. The maximum number of visits to the department was noted in 1891 (60,996 people), and the minimum in 1860 (5,482), which is associated with its formation. Free medicines were given to 45% of those who applied.

#### THE ROLE OF THE SHEREMETEV HOSPITAL DURING PERIODS OF HOSTILITIES

The Sheremetev Hospital played an important role, working as a hospital during all military campaigns: the Patriotic War of 1812 with Napoleon, the Russian-Turkish and Russian-Japanese wars, the First World War. So, in 1812, the doctors of the Sheremetev Hospital treated both Russian wounded and enemy soldiers (more than 500 people) within the walls of the Hospice House [11, p. 88]. During the Russian-Turkish war on August 5, 1877, 2 wooden barracks with 36 beds were opened in the garden of the Hospice House for the treatment of the wounded and sick people. There were 248 people treated, 4 of them died, the rest were discharged as recovered or transferred as recovering to Red Cross hospitals [11, p. 90]. In addition, a sanitary detachment was created from donations from among the doctors and medical staff of the Sheremetev Hospital, which from June 22, 1877 to August 1, 1878 provided medical assistance to the wounded in the barracks hospital deployed by him in Bessarabia. So, 256 wounded were treated, 188 recovered, 52 were transferred to other medical facilities, 16 died. At the end of their activities, the detachment returned to the Sheremetev Hospital [11, p. 89–90].

During the Russian-Japanese War, an infirmary with 72 beds was opened on the basis of the hospital, which was made available to the Red Cross Society. The doctors at the infirmary were: S. Berezovsky, V. Pokrovsky and N. Savinov. From August 20, 1904 to November 23, 1905, there were 440 people in it, of which 364 recovered, 71 were transferred to other medical institutions, 5 people died. A total of 167 operations were performed, of which 94 were for intended for removing bullets, 33 operations were performed on bones, 19 operations were performed for infectious complications, there were also 2 ligations of large vessels and other surgeries [11, pp. 91–92].

In 1905, during the armed uprising in Moscow, the Sheremetev Hospital provided assistance to 15 seriously wounded people (2 died), and also carried out a large number of outpatient dressings for the lightly wounded [11, p. 93].

With the outbreak of the First World War, according to the proposal of the trustee Count S.D. Sheremetev, on August 13, 1914, an infirmary for the wounded with 40 beds was opened on the territory of the Hospice House in two hospital barracks. The infirmary was equipped and maintained at the expense of the House and was transferred to the disposal of the Russian Red Cross Society (RRCS). Doctors N.I. Nasonovsky and K.V. Kazakov, 4 paramedics, 8 nurses and 3 orderlies worked there [1a].

#### SHEREMETEV HOSPITAL AND HIGHER MEDICAL EDUCATION IN RUSSIA

The Sheremetev Hospital has played an important role in higher medical education in Russia. In 1817, it became the clinical base of the Moscow Medical and Surgical Academy, and since 1835, the base of the Medical Faculty of Moscow University. Students who passed the theoretical exams for the doctor's degree practiced medicine for three months under the guidance of experienced hospital specialists, after which they were issued certificates of their practical abilities. The participation of the hospital in the matter of medical education was strengthened with the introduction of a new university charter in 1884, which made it possible for professors and privatdozents of the University to use not only university hospitals for teaching students. The rapprochement of the Sheremetev Hospital with higher medical educational institutions was also facilitated by the fact that many of the chief doctors and operators of the hospital were lecturers at the Moscow Department of the Medical-Surgical Academy and the Medical Faculty of Moscow University, such as Y.V. Kir, B.K. Milhausen, P.N. Kildyushevsky, A.A. Alfonsky and S.E. Berezovsky.

It is important to emphasize that it was the Sheremetev Hospital that was one of the first to identify a new clinical specialty - gynecology. In 1879, Dr. A.N. Solovyov performed the first hysterectomy in Russia for cancer. The specialized gynecological department of the Sheremetev Hospital was then deservedly considered the best in Moscow and therefore was used to train not only students, but also doctors.

#### DEPARTMENT FOR VISITING PATIENTS

The idea of organizing a department for incoming patients as an independent structure within the walls of the Sheremetev Hospital belongs to A.T. Tarasenkov. It must be said that this type of assistance has been provided to the sick since 1860 in a small amount, with the issuance of free medicines and medical advice.

At the request of the Board of Trustees, on August 3, 1873, a bed named after A.T. Tarasenkov and his portrait is also placed there, which until that time was not awarded to any of the former chief doctors [11, p. 107]. On September 12, 1873, the grand opening of this department took place "in memory of Count Dmitry Nikolayevich Sheremetev", the late trustee of the Hospice House [11, p. 103]. It was an outpatient clinic where appointments were made in all the most important areas of medicine with the participation of specialists. There was no such free outpatient clinic for all specialties at that time in any of the Moscow hospitals. The flow of patients was huge: in the 70-80s, doctors received 175-200 people a day. Subsequently, this number decreased as other outpatient clinics began to open in Moscow (Fig. 2). The need and great need for a hospital for incoming patients was written in the St. Petersburg newspaper "Voice" dated February 28, 1869. It says that by that time there were only three such hospitals in Russia: at the pharmacy of the Society of Russian Doctors, the Moscow Trustee Committee for the Poor, and the Sheremetev Hospital. "The number of people who come here for help is increasing every year; it is understandable. Everyone is happy to have the opportunity to prevent or stop the disease in time and receive free medical advice. And how many diseases stop these clinics! How many useful lives they save! ", - writes the newspaper [12].



Fig. 2. Department for visiting patients in the Sheremetev Hospital

#### THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CHIEF DOCTORS AND OPERATORS OF THE SHEREMETEV HOSPITAL

Among the chief physicians of the Sheremetev Hospital were well-known doctors of that time, who determined new points of growth and development of this institution, and put it among the best and most famous not only in Moscow, but also in Russia and abroad. Yakov Wilhelmovich Kir (1807–1838) headed the hospital for more than 30 years. He himself, being a doctor of a therapeutic field, tirelessly cared about the provision of emergency medical care. He purchased the latest surgical instruments of that time, equipped a surgical room (the prototype of the operating room), invited the famous Moscow surgeon A.A. Alfonsky (Fig. 3), later professor of surgery, dean of the medical faculty and rector of Moscow University. The range of surgical interventions at the Sheremetev Hospital has been constantly expanding. Y.V. Kir compiled a guide for doctors and attendants, where he provided for the transfer of terminally ill patients to an almshouse and the mandatory autopsy of the dead, the introduction of medical nutrition, mandatory baths and baths 3 times a week, a ban on smoking and ventilation. Being an excellent clinician, he significantly raised the level of diagnosis and treatment [11, p. 127–128].

Bogdan Karlovich Milhausen (1838–1851) (Fig. 4). He did a lot of useful things to help the poor coming sick people. Due to the absence at that time of a medical cash fund and a department for patients, he obtained from the trustee an annual allocation of a special sum for his personal disposal to provide free medicines to poor incoming patients. In the last years of his activity, B.K. Milhausen left his memory by donating significant capital for the permanent maintenance of 2 beds in the Sheremetev hospital [11, p. 129–130].

Fedor Fedorovich Graff (1851–1852). Less than a year, he took the place of the chief doctor of the Sheremetev hospital. He died while in the service from inflammation of the liver.

Pavel Nikolayevich Kildyushevsky (1852–1858) (Fig. 5) played a major role in improving clinical medicine and surgery at the Sheremetev Hospital (Fig. 5), for many years he worked as an operator and at the same time as a professor at the Midwifery Institute of the Moscow Orphanage, performing various obstetric, gynecological and surgical operations. In 1834 he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Surgery, and in 1841 became an academician. It can be rightly asserted that, thanks to his efforts, the Sheremetev Hospital has become one of the recognized centers of clinical medicine in Russia [11, p. 131–134]. Famous Russian medical scientists, such as Professor V.A. Basov, and later V.F. Snegirev and A.A. Bobrov were often involved in consultations, councils and operations here. Visiting Moscow in 40s, N.I. Pirogov consulted patients at the Sheremetev hospital more than once. In 1859, the medical inspector of Moscow hospitals, Doctor of Medicine and Surgery, Professor A.I. Auvers wrote in his report: “The hospital of the Hospice of Count Sheremetev can be ranked among the best hospital institutions and even surpasses other institutions in many respects, using a power of attorney in the public ... Everyone considers it to be well-being to be treated in it, no matter what rank he belongs to, no matter what important rank he has ... The glory of the Sheremetev hospital is probably not limited to Moscow; non-residents who have a short stay in Moscow, and even foreigners know about the existence of this hospital and, when ill, directly turn to it for benefits” [13].



Fig. 3. A.A. Alfonsky



Fig. 4. B.K. Milhausen



Fig. 5. P.N. Kildushevsky

The activity of the chief doctor of the Sheremetev hospital Alexei Terentyevich Tarasenkov (1858–1873) was unusually productive (Fig. 6). He was invited to this position in 1858, when he already had a wealth of medical experience. Perhaps there was not a single branch of the hospital business, which he did not deal with. Under him, a system of records was introduced in the form of case histories (“mournful lists”), regular rounds of hospital wards by attending physicians and rational nutrition of patients were organized, fixed staffs of doctors and attendants were established, and appropriations for medicines were increased; he took care of the arrangement of the operating room and its equipment. A.T. Tarasenkov seeks systematic autopsy of corpses, is engaged in advanced training of hospital doctors.

He began to create a medical library, donating to it more than 200 of his books on various medical issues, and introduced regular medical conferences, at which not only organizational and administrative, but also scientific issues were discussed, which aroused doctors’ interest in doing science [11, p. 135–137].

Sergei Mikhailovich Kleiner (1880–1910) worked as a chief doctor for a third of a century (Fig. 7). This period coincides with the introduction of antisepsis and asepsis into medical practice. It took a lot of work to re-equip the operating rooms, to re-educate the medical and attendant staff. Under S.M. Kleiner in Moscow for the first time created a preoperative and a separate dressing room. At the same time, a laboratory for chemical and microscopic studies, an electrotherapy room and a hydropathic facility were organized [11, p. 139–140]. When in 1887 the II Congress of the Society of Russian Doctors was held in Moscow in memory of N.I. Pirogov, delegates and numerous guests of the congress on the initiative of N.V. Sklifosovsky visited the Sheremetev Hospital (Fig. 8). They got acquainted in detail with the activities of all departments of the hospital and highly appreciated its clinical level, the quality of diagnostics and medical work.

The study of statistical data shows that if in the 1870–1880s only about 30 surgical operations were performed within the walls of the Sheremetev Hospital annually, then in the 1881–1891s, up to 60 operations were performed. When privatdozent Professor Sergei Eliazarovich Berezovsky, who soon became a professor at Moscow University, became an operator, the average number of surgical interventions was more than 140, and in 1909 there were 185. However, postoperative mortality was only about 5%, and this was a good indicator for that time. With the appointment of S.E. Berezovsky as the chief doctor of the Sheremetev Hospital (1910–1918) (Fig. 9), the number of operations performed increased significantly (up to 150–175 per year), and postoperative mortality decreased from 12–14% to 4–5% [2a]. He performed the first operations of gastric resection and craniotomy in 1902, the first gastroenterostomy and strumectomy in 1903, removal of a brain tumor and suturing of a floating kidney in 1906, opening of a lung abscess in 1907, and the removal of a gallbladder stone in 1910. Since 1909, in the Sheremetev hospital, rubber gloves have been used during operations [11, p. 73]. In 1909–1910, the hospital wards and outpatient clinic were renovated, electric lighting and ventilation, central heating and a mechanical laundry were installed.

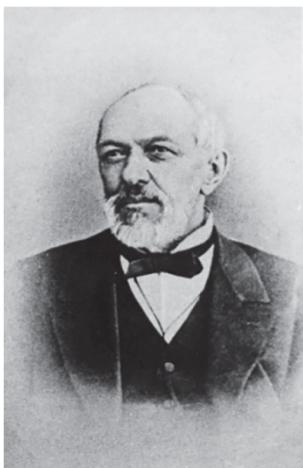


Fig. 6. A.T. Tarasenkov



Fig. 7. S. M. Kleiner



Fig. 8. Delegation of the II Congress of Russian doctors in the Sheremetev hospital, 1887. Third from the right in the first row — N.V. Sklifosovsky



Fig. 9. S.E. Berezovsky

#### THE FINAL PERIOD OF THE SHEREMETEV HOSPITAL (1910–1923)

By 1910, the regular number of beds in the hospital reached 81 (35 men, 40 women and 6 children). They treated an average of about 840 people annually. The hospital consisted of 3 parts isolated from each other: 1) the hospital itself, 2) the contagious department, 3) the department for visitors. The outpatient clinic admitted about 27,000 patients per year [14, p. 461]. The gradual expansion of the bed fund took place mainly at the expense of philanthropists (it was practiced to place capital on the bank account of the Hospice House to open and maintain the so-called nominal beds). In April 1912, the trustee of the Hospice House, Count S.D. Sheremetev donated a capital of 3,000 rubles for the construction of a modern X-ray room at the hospital. The trustee and other benefactors transferred all the money to the account of the House in the Moscow Merchant Bank [3a].

By 1914, the number of full-time beds in the hospital was 82. In 1914, 877 patients were treated in the hospital, 765 of them recovered, 49 died, and 63 people remained in 1915. The outpatient clinic made 22,867 visits, the poorest patients were given medicines for 19,549 prescriptions in the amount of 1,542. 85 [4a].

Due to the exceptional circumstances of wartime, the budget of the Hospice House for 1916 was adopted with a huge deficit of 27,000 rubles at that time. To cover this deficit, a number of economic measures were taken, among which it should be noted the closure of the existing military infirmary at the expense of the Hospice House and the provision of an almshouse, a dining room and two barracks for the organization of an infirmary at the expense of the RRCS at the disposal of the RRCS [5a]. It was also decided to close the dispensary and transfer the almshouse to the hospital, which in turn was reduced from 82 to 40 beds.

At the end of 1916, the Council of the Hospital considered the budget for 1917, and the budget deficit was reduced to 4,546 rubles. It is noteworthy that in order to save money, the trustee of the Strange foster home, Count S.D. Sheremetev refused his salary for 1917 [6a]. But in 1917 the general situation in the country and in Moscow changed for the worse. For example, it is known that on July 21, 1917, the mayor received a deputation from the employees of the Hospital, which reported that the trustee had decided to close the Sheremetev Hospital due to the lack of funds for its maintenance. House employees asked to take the hospital under the jurisdiction of the city government, but this issue was never resolved. In 1918, after the conclusion of a separate peace treaty between Soviet Russia and Germany, the military hospital in the Hospital was closed, in the same year the almshouse ceased to exist, and in June of the same year the very name “Hospital” was liquidated [14, p. 462].

It should be noted that after the October Revolution of 1917, Moscow remained without an emergency medical service (EMS) for 2 years. Again this question arose at the initiative of the doctor of the Moscow Post Office V.P. Pomortsov (Fig. 10), the author of the SMP city carriage project, proposed by him in 1912. In August 1918, the Executive Committee of the Moscow City Council, in accordance with the Decree of the Council of People's Commissars, approved a resolution on the municipalization of real estate in Moscow. Medical institutions began to

be located in the best and most suitable buildings. A special state commission, which included the head of the affairs of the Council of People's Commissars of the RSFSR V.D. Bonch-Bruевич and People's Commissar of Health of the RSFSR N.A. Semashko, examined the former Hospice House and came to the conclusion that it was necessary to use it as a healthcare institution and preserve it as a monument of Russian architecture of the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. In 1919, the Sheremetev Hospital began to function as a state institution [15]. The first chief physician of the Sheremetev Hospital, appointed after the October Revolution, was the famous surgeon Grigory Mikhailovich Gershtein<sup>1</sup> (Fig. 11). Based on the memorandum of V.P. Pomortsov Collegium of the Medical and Sanitary Department of the Moscow City Council, chaired by the People's Commissar of Health of the RSFSR N.A. Semashko on July 18, 1919 (protocol No. 1473) decided to organize an emergency medical service station in Moscow on the basis of the Sheremetev Hospital as the most suitable for this purpose. This station began operating in the renovated premises of the left wing of the Sheremetev Hospital on October 15, 1919 [15], and was headed by V.P. Pomortsov.

In 1919, an outbreak of typhus occurred in Moscow. At the beginning of 1921, 5 experienced doctors were sent to Moscow from the ranks of the Red Army to fight the ongoing epidemic, with A.S. Puchkov<sup>2</sup> among them (Fig. 12). On behalf of the Moscow Health Department, he organized and headed the Central Department for the Transportation of Patients – “Tsentropunkt”, who worked in close contact with the EMS station. Leading the Tsentropunkt, A.S. Puchkov began vigorously to reorganize and strengthen the EMS station, and in 1922 he was appointed its head. In 1923, Tsentropunkt was merged with the EMS station and became its department for the transportation of patients [16]. In the early years of the operation of the city station, the EMS, most of the emergency patients from all over Moscow were taken to the Sheremetev Hospital. Thus, since the beginning of the 20s of the twentieth century, the Sheremetev Hospital for the first time began to work as the Moscow City Hospital of the Emergency Medical Service.



Fig. 10. V.P. Pomortsov



Fig. 11. G.M. Gerstein



Fig. 12. A.S. Puchkov

## CONCLUSION

A review of the activities of the Sheremetev Hospital from the moment it was opened in 1810 to 1923 indicates that it was the experience of organizing emergency medical care for the population of a large city, pedagogical work with students and doctors, participation in the treatment of the wounded, high surgical activity and versatility that were the foundation, on which the work of this medical institution was widely developed. It is no coincidence that

<sup>1</sup>Gershtein Grigory Moiseyevich (1870-1943). In 1895 he graduated from the medical faculty of Kyiv University. Since 1902, he worked in the Vitebsk province, head. surgical department of the Dvina Zemstvo Hospital. Member of the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-1905. During the years of the Civil War of 1918-1920, he organized round-the-clock emergency surgical care at the Sheremetev Hospital, did a lot to improve its equipment and facilities.

<sup>2</sup>Puchkov Aleksandr Sergeyeovich (1887-1952). In 1911 he graduated from the medical faculty of the Imperial Moscow University in Moscow. In 1911-1914, he was an external doctor in the 5<sup>th</sup> City Maternity Hospital, Basmannaya and Myasnitskaya hospitals. From 1914 to 1917 he served in the military as a doctor. In 1918-1921 he was a military doctor in the ranks of the Red Army. From 1922 to 1952 he was the head, chief physician of the EMS station in Moscow. Doctor of Medicine (1912). Doctor of Medical Sciences (1947). He was the first in the country to raise the issue of the role of the EMS in the prevention of accidents, substantiate the possibility of preventive work of the EMS station, the author of a number of technical improvements and rational devices.

the Sheremetev Hospital was reorganized in 1923 into the N.V. Sklifosovsky Institute of Emergency Care (N.V. Sklifosovsky Research Institute for Emergency Medicine since 1943).

The achievements of the Institute over the 100 years that have passed since its foundation, its wide popularity are largely due to the activities of famous scientists, talented doctors, excellent organizers, and high results of scientific and practical work. Highly professional specialists have always worked in the unique and amazing building of the Hospice House, doing good, restoring life and hope to people. This tradition continues today. N.V. Sklifosovsky Research Institute for Emergency Medicine is one of the few scientific institutions in the country, for achievements in science and practical healthcare awarded with high state awards, the Orders of Lenin and the Red Banner of Labor.

From the moment of its creation to the present day, the Hospice House has not changed its social orientation: the treatment of the sick. Surprisingly, but in some inexplicable way, the closest connection of our team with the Hospice House and the Sheremetev Hospital continues. It was not destroyed even by the fact that for more than 10 years the historic building, where the Sheremetev Hospital was located, was not the property of the Institute, but it returned to us again to fulfill its main task which is to help the sick and suffering people. Aleksey Fyodorovich Malinovsky, the first caretaker of the Hospice House, expressed the opinion that the principle of complete free-of-charge should be taken as the basis for the activities of the Hospice House, since every good deed loses its price if even the smallest payment is taken for its performance. As you can see, the principles of work of the N.V. Sklifosovsky Research Institute for Emergency Medicine today is the provision of free, public, highly qualified and specialized emergency medical care to all those in need of it, which in many ways similar to the Charter of the Hospice Home and the Sheremetev Hospital adopted more than 200 years ago.

At the Sklifosovsky Institute, as well as at the Sheremetev Hospital, today the poor and the rich, high-ranking officials and the homeless, people of all nationalities and religions are being treated. The Institute is not only the legal successor of the Hospice Home and the Sheremetev Hospital, but also the successor of its main traditions, the traditions of mercy and kindness, innovation and professionalism.

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